

would be as valuable as a scientific paper, and quite as enlightening; since members would then better appreciate the bigness and the importance of this study—which the House of Delegates at this year's Yosemite session instructed the State Council to submit to the component county societies.

REFERENDUM ON PROPOSED QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE (BASIC SCIENCE) INITIATIVE LAW FOR CALIFORNIA

Proposed Qualifying Certificate Law Was Considered in the November Issue.—The first editorial in last month's CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE discussing some of the provisions in the draft of a qualifying certificate (basic science) law, as referred to the Council of the California Medical Association by its special committee, contained the essential sections of a proposed law to be submitted to the electorate as an initiative on the ballot sheet of the November, 1936, state election.

At the meeting of the Council held in San Francisco on November 2, when a report was made by the special committee concerning the procedures necessary in the submittal of an initiative, the best methods of obtaining the requisite 200,000 signatures were explained, and also the expenses involved, inclusive of the publicity needed to insure the passage of such a law.

The report was carefully considered by the Council, as noted in Item 15 of the Council minutes printed on page 448 of this issue. At Yosemite, in May of the present year, the House of Delegates had cast a unanimous vote in favor of a qualifying certificate (basic science) law, which endorsement in itself was construed as a mandate to the Council. However, because of the amount of expense involved, the Council felt that it would be proper to give the 5,000 members of the Association an opportunity to express their personal reactions to the proposed law; and by unanimous vote of the Council, a referendum to the membership was ordered, the time fixed for closing the ballot being two weeks after the date of mailing. The referendum postcard contained an announcement and a return ballot card, reading as follows:

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
450 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

REFERENDUM NO. I

November 12, 1935.

To Association Members:

The Council, conforming to a resolution of the 1935 House of Delegates favoring a Qualifying Certificate (Basic Science) Act, has received the report of the Special Committee on this Act, commented upon in the November CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (on page 321).

The Council now submits to all members the question as to whether it shall direct the Committee to draft a law, secure the necessary signatures to an initiative petition, and attempt to secure enactment of the law by initiative ballot at the November 1936 election.

Time is important. Members are urged to register their desires by an immediate return of the attached card.

Signed: THE COUNCIL OF THE CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

Robert A. Peers, President

F. C. Warnshuis, Secretary

George H. Kress, Committee Chairman.

California Medical Association, Referendum, 1935

REFERENDUM NO. I

To the Council:

I record my answer to the Referendum.

Do you favor that the Council shall instruct the Association's special committee to secure a Qualifying Certificate Law by initiative at the 1936 November election, and to that end expend for signatures, postage and clerical expenses approximately \$35,000 of the Association's reserve funds? Yes ☐ No ☐

Signed.....

Address.....

County.....

Detach and Mail Before November 16, 1935

* * *

Results of the Referendum Vote Not Known at This Writing.—At the time of this writing, we do not know the trend of the voting. If the members vote in favor of submitting such an initiative law in November, 1936, the special committee, under the direction of the Council, will proceed with promptness in the preparation of the final draft of the law, and will take the other necessary steps to give it a place on next year's state election ballot sheets. If, however, the members do not vote in favor of submitting such an initiative law at the present time, the special committee and Council will continue their studies of the subject for report to the House of Delegates at the San Diego meeting in May, 1936.

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Later: The Association Members Cast a Five to One Vote in Favor of the Qualifying Certificate Initiative.—On the day the galley proofs of the December issue reached the editor, he received a letter from Association Secretary Warnshuis that the vote (with more than 2,000 ballots cast), was running about five to one in favor of a qualifying certificate law. It may be of interest, also, that in these first ballots that were cast, the proportion in favor in Los Angeles County was as 13 to 1, in Alameda County, as 4 to 1, and in San Francisco County as 3 to 1.

QUESTIONNAIRE POLL OF C. M. A. MEMBERS: ON HEALTH INSURANCE

California Medical Association Takes a Poll of Physicians on the Subject of Health Insurance.—Item 9 of the Council minutes of its November 2 meeting mentions the attendance of a committee from the Sacramento Society, whose members, at the September 7 meeting of the Council, were requested by the Council to present a questionnaire relating to the taking of a poll of all licensed physicians in California holding